

dispersion comprising said substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and mixing said second aqueous dispersion with said third aqueous dispersion to produce a mixture thereof, wherein said first aqueous dispersion thereby produced is substantially free of a water-soluble metal or ammonium salt of an aliphatic carboxylic acid with greater than 12 carbon atoms and said process further comprises a step selected from the group consisting of: increasing the pH of said second aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to mixing with said third aqueous dispersion; increasing the pH of said third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to mixing with said second aqueous dispersion; and increasing the pH of said mixture to a value of at least 8.0.

8. (Amended) A preparation process for a fourth aqueous dispersion comprising a second in-situ photosensitive silver halide and a substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid, comprising the steps of: (i) providing said third aqueous dispersion of claim 1 and (ii) partially converting said substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid in said third aqueous dispersion with a non-fluoro halide ion source into said second in-situ photosensitive silver halide thereby producing said fourth aqueous dispersion; wherein said fourth aqueous dispersion thereby produced is substantially free of a water-soluble metal or ammonium salt of an aliphatic carboxylic acid with greater than 12 carbon atoms and said process further comprises a step selected from the group consisting of: increasing the pH of said third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to step (ii); increasing the pH of the third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 during step (ii); and increasing the pH of said aqueous dispersion resulting from step (ii) to a value of at least 8.0.

14. (Amended) A photothermographic recording material comprising a photo-addressable thermally developable element, wherein the photo-addressable thermally developable element comprises a layer produced with a first dispersion, wherein the first aqueous dispersion comprises an ex-situ photosensitive silver halide and a substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid, and wherein the first aqueous dispersion is obtained by a preparation process for a first aqueous dispersion comprising the steps of: separately preparing a second aqueous dispersion comprising said ex-situ photosensitive

silver halide and a third aqueous dispersion comprising said substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and mixing said second aqueous dispersion with said third aqueous dispersion to produce a mixture thereof, wherein said first aqueous dispersion thereby produced is substantially free of a water-soluble metal or ammonium salt of an aliphatic carboxylic acid with greater than 12 carbon atoms and said process further comprises a step selected from the group consisting of: increasing the pH of said second aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to mixing with said third aqueous dispersion; increasing the pH of said third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to mixing with said second aqueous dispersion; and increasing the pH of said mixture to a value of at least 8.0.

15. (Amended) A photothermographic recording material comprising a photo-addressable thermally developable element, wherein the photo-addressable thermally developable element comprises a layer produced with a fourth aqueous dispersion, wherein said fourth aqueous dispersion comprises a second in-situ photosensitive silver halide and a substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid and wherein the fourth aqueous dispersion is obtained by a preparation process comprising the steps of: (i) providing said third aqueous dispersion of claim 1 and (ii) partially converting said substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid in said third aqueous dispersion with a non-fluoro halide ion source into said second in-situ photosensitive silver halide thereby producing said fourth aqueous dispersion; wherein said fourth aqueous dispersion thereby produced is substantially free of a water-soluble metal or ammonium salt of an aliphatic carboxylic acid with greater than 12 carbon atoms and said process further comprises a step selected from the group consisting of: increasing the pH of said third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to step (ii); increasing the pH of the third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 during step (ii); and increasing the pH of said aqueous dispersion resulting from step (ii) to a value of at least 8.0, wherein said process further includes a step of adding a water-soluble silver salt having a solubility in water at 20°C of greater than 0.1 g/L at any stage in said preparation process.

Please add the following new claims:

16. (New) A photothermographic recording material comprising a photo-addressable thermally developable element, wherein the photo-addressable thermally developable element comprises a layer produced with a first aqueous dispersion, wherein the first aqueous dispersion comprises an ex-situ photosensitive silver halide and a substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid, and wherein the first aqueous dispersion is obtained by a preparation process for a first aqueous dispersion comprising the steps of: separately preparing a second aqueous dispersion comprising said ex-situ photosensitive silver halide and a third aqueous dispersion comprising said substantially light-insensitive silver salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and mixing said second aqueous dispersion with said third aqueous dispersion to produce a mixture thereof, wherein said first aqueous dispersion thereby produced is substantially free of a water-soluble metal or ammonium salt of an aliphatic carboxylic acid with greater than 12 carbon atoms and said process further comprises a step selected from the group consisting of: increasing the pH of said second aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to mixing with said third aqueous dispersion; increasing the pH of said third aqueous dispersion to a value of at least 8.0 prior to mixing with said second aqueous dispersion; and increasing the pH of said mixture to a value of at least 8.0, wherein said process further includes a step of adding a water-soluble silver salt having a solubility in water at 20°C of greater than 0.1 g/L at any stage in said preparation process.

17. (New) Preparation process according to claim 1, wherein said process further includes a step of adding a water-soluble silver salt having a solubility in water at 20°C of greater than 0.1 g/L at any stage in said preparation process.

18. (New) Preparation process according to claim 8, wherein said process further includes a step of adding a water-soluble silver salt having a solubility in water at 20°C of greater than 0.1 g/L at any stage in said preparation process.